

quite a large crop was saved. Cotton came through the month fairly well. The showers of the 22-23d freshened vegetation somewhat; enabled a little fall plowing to be done and was beneficial to pastures. Light frosts in the western half of the State towards close the of the month did some slight damage to late tobacco, gardens and vines.

GENERAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1897.

JANUARY was a cold, dry month. In temperature the deficiency averaged about 4° and in precipitation 2.44 inches. Snow was quite general over the State during the latter part of the month and fogs were frequent over the river basins of the Tidewater section. Prevailing winds W., and NW.

FEBRUARY gave a continuation of the cold weather, the deficiency in this respect being about 2° , but in regard to precipitation there was a reversal of the January conditions. The average total for the State was 6.49 inches which was 2.50 inches in excess of the normal and about balanced the deficiency which obtained in January. Snow occurred in all sections early in the month, and high water was general in all the rivers. Prevailing wind NW.

MARCH averaged about 4° warmer than usual and was about normal in precipitation. Snow occurred in all portions of the State, but was noticeably less than in February. Thunderstorms were frequent. Prevailing wind SW.

APRIL gave an average deficiency of 2° in temperature and about 1 inch in precipitation. Frosts both light and killing were frequent and general, and quite destructive to early fruit blooms and vegetables. Fogs were common in the mountain valleys. Prevailing winds SW., and W.

MAY was a month of many cool days, but nearly normal precipitation. In temperature the deficiency averaged about 4° . Damaging frosts continued injuring fruit blooms and necessitating replanting of some vegetables. Snow fell in the mountains but disappeared with the month. Seismic disturbances were quite frequent and general the most severe being on the 31st. Prevailing wind SW.

JUNE was also a cool, and verging on dry, month, the temperature averaging about 2° , and the precipitation about half an inch less than the normal. But notwithstanding this, temperatures ranging from 90° to 103° were recorded at the middle and close of the month. Thunderstorms were frequent; some hail fell and slight earthquake shocks were reported. Prevailing wind SW.

JULY temperatures were about normal; precipitation about 0.85 of an inch in excess of the normal. Month warmest about the 3d and 23d and coolest about the 14th. Prevailing wind SW.

AUGUST, in temperature, was about 1° below the normal, but still gave some hot periods, and deficient in precipitation to the extent of 1.17 inches. This month marks the beginning of a droughty period which continued until the middle of October. Prevailing wind SW.

SEPTEMBER averaged about 1° above the normal in temperature, and about 3.50 inches below the normal in precipitation. It was noteworthy for an unusually long-continued period of high temperatures followed by a reaction towards cooler which produced light to killing frosts all over the State except on the coast. An intense and disastrous drought prevailed. Late crops were much injured, the flow of streams and wells greatly reduced and in some localities cut off entirely. Prevailing winds, NE., and W.

OCTOBER was 1.6° cooler than usual, and gave precipitation about 1 inch in excess of the normal. It is worthy of remark that the major portion of the monthly rainfall occurred be-

tween the 19th and 31st when rains were almost incessant. Fogs and frosts were frequent and a slight earthquake was reported on the 22d. Prevailing wind, NE.

NOVEMBER weather was sunny and bright with temperature about normal and precipitation slightly above normal. The first snow of the season fell in the mountains on the 11th-12th. Slight earthquake reported on the 27th. Prevailing wind, W.

DECEMBER was also about normal in temperature and nearly so in precipitation. Some ice made late in the month. Slight earthquake reported on the 18th; thunderstorms on the 12th. Prevailing wind, W.

TEMPERATURE. (DEG. F.)

TIDEWATER VIRGINIA—Highest yearly mean, 60.5, at Hampton; lowest yearly mean, 56.8 at Warsaw; maximum temperature for the year, 100, at Doswell and Petersburg, on July 10th and August 30th respectively; minimum temperature for the year, 2, at Ashland, on January 30th; annual range of temperature, 98.

MIDDLE VIRGINIA—Highest yearly mean, 59.0, at Bon Air; lowest yearly mean, 54.1, at Maidens; maximum temperature for the year, 103, at Farmville, on June 24th; minimum temperature for the year, -5 , at Buckingham, Guinea, Maidens and Nottoway C. H., on January 29th, 28th and 30th; annual range of temperature, 108.

THE GREAT VALLEY.—Highest yearly mean, 58.6 at Salem; lowest yearly mean, 49.3, at Monterey; maximum temperature for the year, 100, at Woodstock, on July 7th; minimum temperature for the year, -15 , at Big Stone Gap and Bristol, on January 29th and 28th respectively; annual range of temperature, 115.

PRECIPITATION.

TIDEWATER VIRGINIA.—Greatest yearly precipitation, 48.95 inches, at Spottsville; least yearly precipitation, 34.36 inches, at Doswell; greatest monthly fall during the year, 9.64 inches, at Spottsville, in October; least monthly fall during the year, 0.32 of an inch, at Cape Henry, in September.

MIDDLE VIRGINIA.—Greatest yearly precipitation, 47.03 inches, at Manassas; least yearly precipitation, 35.64 inches, at Maidens; greatest monthly fall during the year, 9.25 inches, at Rocky Mount, in February; least monthly fall during the year, trace, at Farmville, in September.

THE GREAT VALLEY.—Greatest yearly precipitation, 50.66 inches, at Big Stone Gap; least yearly precipitation, 31.98 inches, at Staunton; greatest monthly fall during the year, 9.82 inches, at Big Stone Gap, in February; least monthly fall during the year, 0.30 of an inch, at Sword's Creek, in September.

Comparative Table Showing Monthly Mean Temperature and Total Precipitation for Virginia for 1897, and Normal for Same Based on 11 Years' Record.

Months.	Temperature (in degrees Fahr.)		Precipitation (Inches and hundredths.)	
	1897.	11 year normal.	1897.	11 year normal.
January	32.7	36.9	1.94	4.38
February	39.5	41.4	6.49	3.99
March	48.2	44.3	4.94	4.15
April	53.9	55.9	2.08	3.03
May	61.3	65.5	4.14	4.44
June	71.7	73.7	3.18	3.68
July	78.4	78.3	4.46	3.61
August	73.7	75.0	2.42	3.19
September	68.8	67.8	1.04	4.47
October	59.0	57.4	4.46	3.17
November	46.5	47.3	2.49	2.48
December	39.5	40.0	3.39	3.08
Annual	55.9	56.8	3.33	3.07